

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06219 01 OF 02 061546Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 /086 W
-----019226 061705Z /43

O R 061535Z APR 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7394
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06219

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, MILI
SUBJECT: PROTEST TO SOVIETS REGARDING INCIDENT INVOLV-
ING FRG PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE

REFS: A) USBER 778 DTG 060830Z APR 78
B) USBER 755 DTG 041400Z APR 78

BEGIN SUMMARY: REGARDING THE SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH
PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S MOTORCADE (REFTELS), WE PLAN TO
INTRODUCE IN THE BONN GROUP MEETING OF APRIL 7 A DRAFT
PROTEST FOR DELIVERY TO THE SOVIETS AT THE POLAD LEVEL
IN BERLIN. THE DRAFT IS A VARIATION OF ONE WHICH HAS
REPORTEDLY BEEN AGREED BY THE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN.
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAGRAPH 7. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A BRIEF APRIL 4 BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE
SOVIET FLAG TOUR INTERFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S
MOTORCADE, THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 06219 01 OF 02 061546Z

INCIDENT WAS BEING DISCUSSED IN THE BERLIN PRESS AND HAS
CERTAIN IMPLICATIONS (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED). HE SAID
THE CHANCELLERY WAS INTERESTED WHETHER THE ALLIES PLANNED
TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE SOVIETS. THE US REP, SPEAKING
PERSONALLY, SAID THAT WE SHOULD PROTEST NOT ONLY
BECAUSE
THE SOVIET ACTIVITY WAS UNWARRANTED BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT

SHOWED PURE BAD MANNERS.

2. THE UK REP (HARPER) SAID THAT THE DEPUTY POLADS AT THE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN HAD JUST MET AND HAD AGREED THAT A PROTEST SHOULD BE MADE, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH A REPLY TO THE SOVIETS ON OTHER MATTERS. THE US AND FRG REPS SAID THAT ANY PROTEST SHOULD BE MADE PROMPTLY, TO DELAY WOULD CAUSE THE SOVIETS TO REGARD OUR PROTEST AS PRO FORMA. IT WAS AGREED TO AWAIT THE MISSIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO THE MATTER.

3. THE UK EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING DRAFT REPLY WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN AGREED BY THE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN.

BEGIN TEXT. THE RUSSIANS CAN SCARCELY EXPECT WEST BERLINERS TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY TOWARDS SOVIET FLAG TOURS IN THE WSB WHEN THE LATTER BEHAVE AS BADLY AS VEHICLE 10-22AZ DID ON 3 APRIL. THIS VEHICLE ATTEMPTED TO TAG ON TO THE MOTORCADE OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT. THE VEHICLE ALSO INFRINGED A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. IN PARTICULAR IT DROVE THROUGH A RED LIGHT AT THE ROAD JUNCTION BY THE RUHLEBEN U-BAHN STATION WHEN THE MOTORCADE WAS ON ITS WAY TO THE SCHLEICHER FACTORY IN PICHELWERDERSTRASSE. AFTER THE MOTORCADE LEFT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 06219 01 OF 02 061546Z

FACTORY THE SOVIET VEHICLE DROVE REPEATEDLY IN RUHLEBENER STRASSE AT SPEEDS OF UP TO 100 KPH IN A 50 KPH SPEED LIMIT. IT OVERTOOK SEVERAL CARS ON THE INSIDE LANE AND AT THE JUNCTION SPANDAUERDAMM/WIESENDAMM HAD TO BRAKE SHARPLY TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH A CAR WHICH HAD STOPPED AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS. SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVING BY SOVIET FLAG TOURS COULD CAUSE A SERIOUS ACCIDENT. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO DISCIPLINE THE SOVIET SOLDIERS CONCERNED AND TO ENSURE THAT IN FUTURE SOVIET FLAG TOURS DRIVE SAFELY, COURTEOUSLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN THE WSB. THEIR BEHAVIOUR ON THIS OCCASION WAS UNCULTIVATED AND UNWORTHY OF THE RED ARMY. END TEXT.

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PAGE 01 BONN 06219 02 OF 02 061551Z
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O R 061535Z APR 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06219

4. WE HAVE CALLED A BONN GROUP MEETING FOR 11:00 A.M.
TOMORROW, AT WHICH TIME WE WILL PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING
TEXT, WHICH IS A SLIGHT VARIATION OF THE MISSIONS'
DRAFT. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE UK AND FRENCH
BONN GROUP REPS HERE, AND IT APPEARS GENERALLY ACCEPT-
ABLE TO THEM.

BEGIN TEXT

ON APRIL 3, A SOVIET FLAG TOUR VEHICLE JOINED ON
BEHIND THE MOTORCADE OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND FOLLOWED THE MOTORCADE TO
PICHELWERDERSTRASSE, WHERE THE PRESIDENT VISITED A
FACTORY. AFTER THE PRESIDENT LEFT THE FACTORY, THE
VEHICLE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO TAG ON TO THE MOTORCADE.
THE VEHICLE INFRINGED A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 06219 02 OF 02 061551Z

IN PARTICULAR IT DROVE THROUGH A RED LIGHT AT THE ROAD
JUNCTION BY THE RUHLBEN U-BAHN STATION WHEN THE MOTOR-
CADE WAS ON ITS WAY TO THE SCHLEICHER FACTORY IN
PICHELWERDERSTRASSE. AFTER THE MOTORCADE LEFT THE
FACTORY THE SOVIET VEHICLE DROVE REPEATEDLY IN

RUHLEBENERSTRASSE AT SPEEDS OF UP TO 100 KPH IN A 50 KPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE. IT OVERTOOK SEVERAL CARS ON THE INSIDE LANE AND AT THE JUNCTION SPANDAUERDAMM/WIESENDAMM HAD TO BRAKE SHARPLY TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH A CAR WHICH HAD STOPPED AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS. SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVING BY SOVIET FLAG TOURS, ASIDE FROM CONSTITUTING A PETTY ACT OF DISCOURTESY TO A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR, COULD CAUSE A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

I AM INSTRUCTED, ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES, TO PROTEST THE CONDUCT OF THE SOVIET SOLDIERS IN THIS MATTER AND TO REQUEST THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO DISCIPLINE THE SOLDIERS CONCERNED AS WELL AS TO ENSURE THAT, IN THE FUTURE, THE SOVIET FLAG TOURS DRIVE SAFELY, COURTEOUSLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. END OF TEXT

5. THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE MISSIONS' DRAFT WAS DELETED BECAUSE IT IMPLIEDLY CONDONED THE BEHAVIOR OF WEST BERLINERS TOWARD THE SOVIET FLAG TOURS. WE SUGGEST INSERTING THE REFERENCE TO AN ACT OF "PETTY DISCOURTESY" TO POINT OUT TO THE SOVIETS THAT SOVIET ACTIONS SHOULD BE BENEATH THEM. WE SUGGEST DELETING THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE MISSIONS' DRAFT BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE MISSIONS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED IT IN THE HOPE OF SHAMING THE RUSSIANS INTO BETTER BEHAVIOR, WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO COMMENT ON THE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR OF THE RED ARMY. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 06219 02 OF 02 061551Z

IF THE BRITISH OR FRENCH BELIEVE THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE IN SOME WAY, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT IT BE ADDED AS AN ORAL COMMENT.

6. WE CONSIDER THAT, IF WE ARE TO PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS ON THIS SUBJECT, IT SHOULD BE DONE URGENTLY. WE WOULD THUS HOPE THAT ALL BONN GROUP REPS WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON A TEXT AT A SPECIAL MEETING CALLED FOR FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 7. THE FRENCH EMBASSY INTENDS TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO BERLIN WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PARIS, AND THE BRITISH HOPE TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF A BONN GROUP DRAFT DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY FRIDAY. WE THUS RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN POLAD TO PROTEST THE INCIDENT AND APPROVE THE TEXT IN PARA 4 ABOVE, WHILE PROVIDING DISCRETION FOR THE EMBASSY TO AGREE TO MODIFICATION IN THAT TEXT IF NECESSARY FOR REACHING PROMPT CONSENSUS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS, IF POSSIBLE TO

REACH BONN BY OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 7, ALONG THE
LINES IN PARA 6 ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

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